

PROGRAMMATIC FACTORS RELATED TO OUTCOMES IN JUVENILE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT: EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF JUVENILE DRUG COURTS

Pamela Baumer, MA,^a Josephine D. Korchmaros, PhD,^b Sally J. Stevens, PhD,^b Michael L. Dennis, PhD,^a & Kate R. Moritz, MA^a

^a Chestnut Health Systems

^b University of Arizona-Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)

National Association of Drug Court Professionals 21st Annual Training Conference ♦
July 27-30, 2015

Public Health and Safety Problem

- Over 1.7 million (7%) of U.S. youth age 12-17 have a substance use problem (SAMHSA, 2013)
- The effects of substance use during childhood and adolescence can have numerous negative effects

Juvenile Drug Courts (JDCs)

- As of June 3, 2013, there were 447 JDCs in operation in the United States (National Institute of Justice).
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP, 2010) supports the expansion of drug courts, including JDCs, to achieve ONDCP's objective of breaking the cycle between drugs and crime.
- SAMHSA has identified drug courts as a key tool in reducing problems related to trauma and has established "Trauma and Justice" as one of its eight strategic initiatives.

Emerging Evidence Supporting JDCs

- Outcomes of JDC participants are greatly enhanced if the court incorporates an evidence-based substance abuse intervention component (Henggeler, 2007).
- Data suggest that JDCs that implement the 16 JDC: Strategies in Practice (JDC:SP; NDCI & NCJFCJ, 2003) can result in favorable outcomes (Carey, Allen et al., 2013).
- Preliminary evidence suggests that integrating the JDC:SP and Reclaiming Futures (RF) is effective (Butts, Roman et al., 2007).

JDC/Reclaiming Futures (RF) Initiative

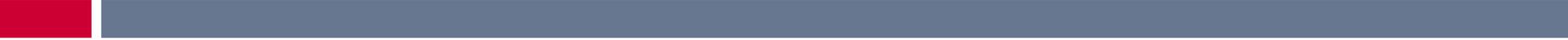
- SAMHSA-CSAT, OJJDP, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ) partnership to improve the effectiveness and efficacy of JDCs.
- Sponsored an initiative to rehabilitate nonviolent, substance-abusing youth by integrating JDC:SP and RF
- Multiple cohorts of JDCs funded under initiative



National Cross-site Evaluation of JDCs and RF

Evaluation of the effectiveness and efficacy of
JDC/RF programs.

Cross-site Evaluation Team



- University of Arizona's Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)
 - Chestnut Health Systems
 - Carnevale Associates, LLC
- 

Cross-site Evaluation Overview

- Multi-Site, four-year evaluation of the Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures Initiative
- Charged with evaluating the processes, impact, and cost-effectiveness of integrating the JDC:SP and RF

Overview of Methodology

- Client-level data
 - Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN; Dennis, Titus, et al., 2008; www.gaincc.org)
 - Client characteristics and behaviors
 - Client outcomes
- JDC/RF Program-level data
 - Surveys
 - Program characteristics



Program Comparison: JDC/RF, JDC, Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP)

General Overview of Programs

- Intensive Outpatient (IOP)
- Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)
 - JDC without RF (JDC-only)
 - JDC/RF

The Models

Reclaiming Futures

- 1) Initial Screening
- 2) Initial Assessment
- 3) Service Coordination
- 4) Initiation
- 5) Engagement
- 6) Transition

Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice

- 1) Collaborative Planning
- 2) Teamwork
- 3) Clearly Defined Target Population & Eligibility Criteria
- 4) Judicial Involvement and Supervision
- 5) Monitoring & Evaluation
- 6) Community Partnerships
- 7) Comprehensive Treatment Planning
- 8) Developmentally Appropriate Services
- 9) Gender-Appropriate Services
- 10) Cultural Competence
- 11) Focus on Strengths
- 12) Family Engagement
- 13) Educational Linkages
- 14) Drug Testing
- 15) Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions
- 16) Confidentiality

The Integrated JDC/RF Model

- JDC and RF are complementary models
 - ▣ Both focus on the juvenile population and age and developmentally-appropriate practices
 - ▣ Both contain evidence-based components necessary for successful outcomes
- Many similarities, but how do the models differ?
 - ▣ JDC details program components while RF addresses elements in system approach

Program Characteristics Consistent Across JDC/RF, JDC-only, and IOP

Defining a target population and eligibility criteria that aligned with the program's goals and objectives
Establishing a system of program monitoring and evaluation
Frequent reviews of treatment plans were scheduled
A non-adversarial approach was used to address youth needs
Treatment was appropriate to the developmental needs of adolescents
Treatment was designed to address the unique needs of each gender
Policies and procedures were responsive to cultural differences
The program focused on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between treatment personnel and those they serve
Family was recognized and engaged as a valued partner in all components of the program
Program staff coordinated with the school system to make sure the youth enrolled in an appropriate educational program
Youth compliance was responded to with incentives designed to reinforce this behavior

Program Characteristics Consistent Across JDC/RF, JDC-only, and IOP

All stakeholders were engaged in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and systematic approach to working with youth and their families

Had a group that met regularly to do staffings, to coordinate services, and/or to do treatment planning

Program clients were screened for need using a reputable screening tool(s)

If the initial screening suggested possible substance abuse or mental health problems, the youth were fully assessed for clinical need using a reputable assessment tool(s)

Assuring that all clients received at least one service contact within 14 days of initial assessment

Assuring that all clients received at least 3 treatment sessions within 30 days of initial assessment

Assuring that all clients completed treatment

Had a clear definition of completion of the program

Drug testing was frequent, random, and observed

Provided drug screening

Having written drug testing procedures and policies

Program Characteristics that Varied by Type of Program

	JDC/RF (N=5)	JDC (N=8)	IOP (N=7)	
Program Characteristic	Mean	Mean	Mean	p
Building partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth clients and their families	3.00	3.88 ⁺	3.57	.004
Training personnel to be culturally competent	3.00	3.75 ⁺	3.43	.025
Having confidentiality policy and procedures to guard the privacy of the youth while allowing treatment-related personnel [case managers, therapists] to access key information	3.40	4.00 ⁺	3.86	.023
Interventions were tailored to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families	4.20	4.88 ⁺	4.71	.039
Youth non-compliance was responded to with sanctions designed to modify this behavior	4.40	4.75	2.86	.028

+ Differs from JDC/RF group at $p < .05$

Client Characteristics at Intake

Individual Characteristics at Program Intake	JDC/RF (N=657)	JDC (N=1,099)	IOP (N=727)
Demographic			
Gender: Female	26%	31% ⁺	25%
Age	15.95	15.62 ⁺	15.50 ⁺
Ethnic/ Racial Minority	64%	69%	74% ⁺
Substance Use			
Substance Problems Scale (past month)	2.90	2.61	3.25
Days using drugs or alcohol	32.25	33.27	36.47 ⁺
Mental Health-Related Characteristics			
Co-occurring Disorders	1.02	0.88 ⁺	.098
Count of Clinical Problems	4.95	4.24 ⁺	4.50 ⁺

+ Differs from JDC/RF group at $p < .05$



Effectiveness of Programs: JDC/RF, JDC, IOP

Comparisons



- JDC/RF vs. JDC-only and IOP
 - JDC (JDC/RF and JDC-only) vs. IOP
- 

Questions

- Are JDC/RF programs more effective at addressing substance use and criminal activity than non-JDC/RF programs?
- Are JDC programs more effective at addressing substance use and criminal activity than non-JDC programs?

Results that would Suggest “Yes, They Are”

- Main effect of type of program (JDC/RF or JDC) on substance use/criminal activity at 6 months post-program intake*
- An interaction effect that indicates that the usual positive relationship between substance use/criminal activity at intake and at 6 months post-intake was interrupted or reversed*

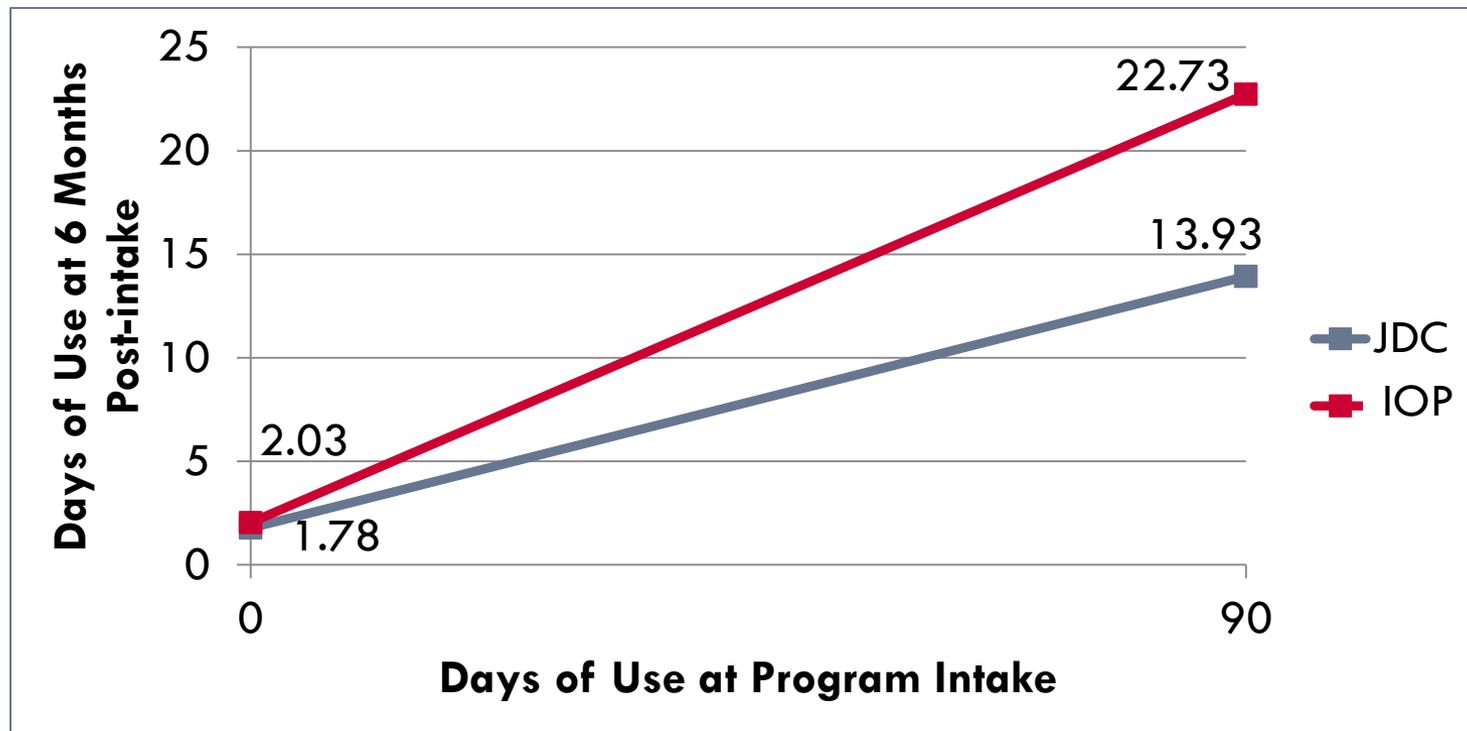
*while controlling for substance use and criminal activity at program intake and for client characteristics

Substance Use

- Days of Use
 - JDC/RF: no main or interaction effect
 - **JDC: interaction effect** but no main effect
- Substance problems
 - JDC/RF: no main or interaction effect
 - JDC: no main or interaction effect

Days of Substance Use

Relationship between days of substance use at program intake and days of use at 6 months post-intake is different for JDC clients than for IOP clients.

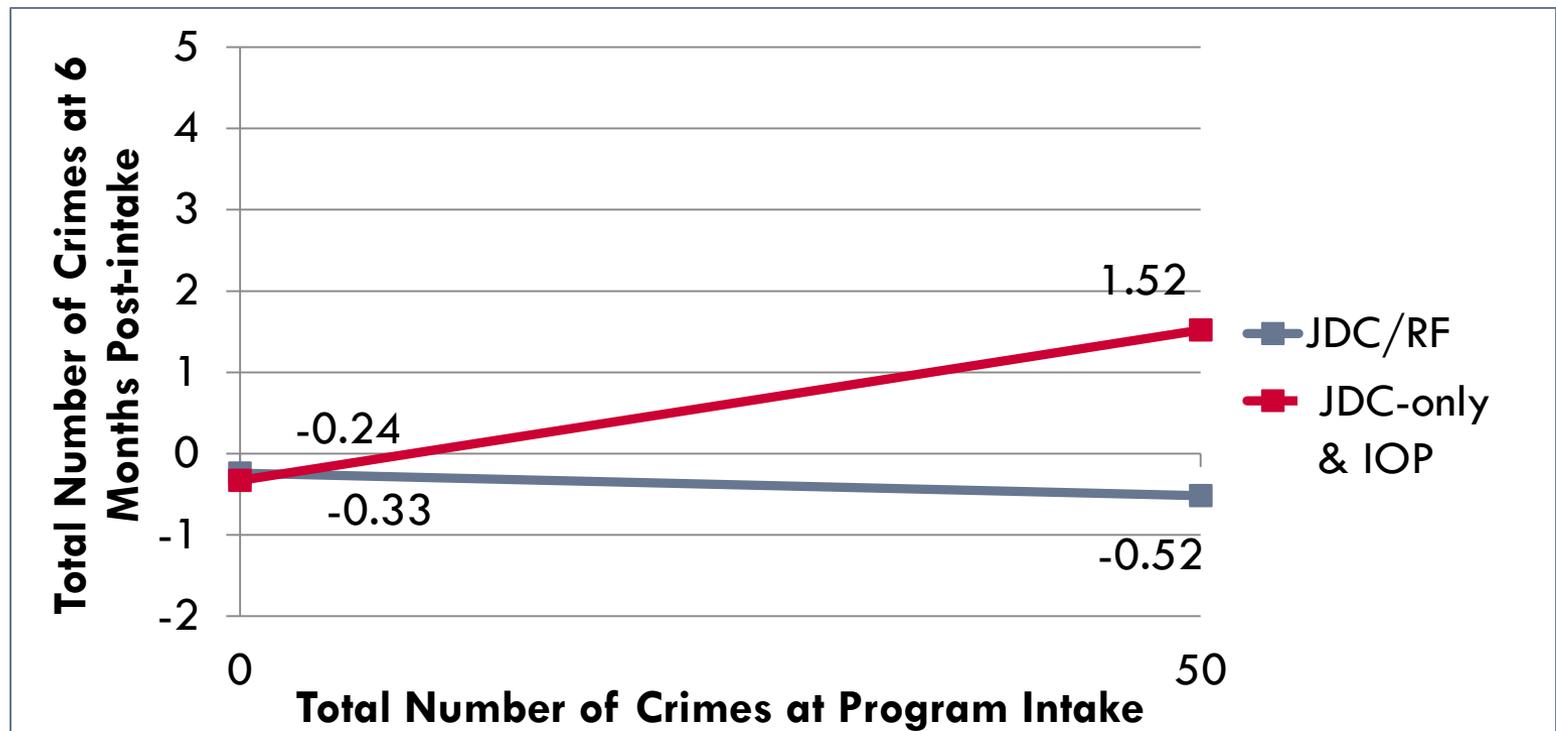


Criminal Activity

- Total number of crimes
 - JDC/RF: interaction effect but no main effect
 - JDC: no main or interaction effect
- Illegal activity
 - JDC/RF: main and interaction effect
 - JDC: no main or interaction effect

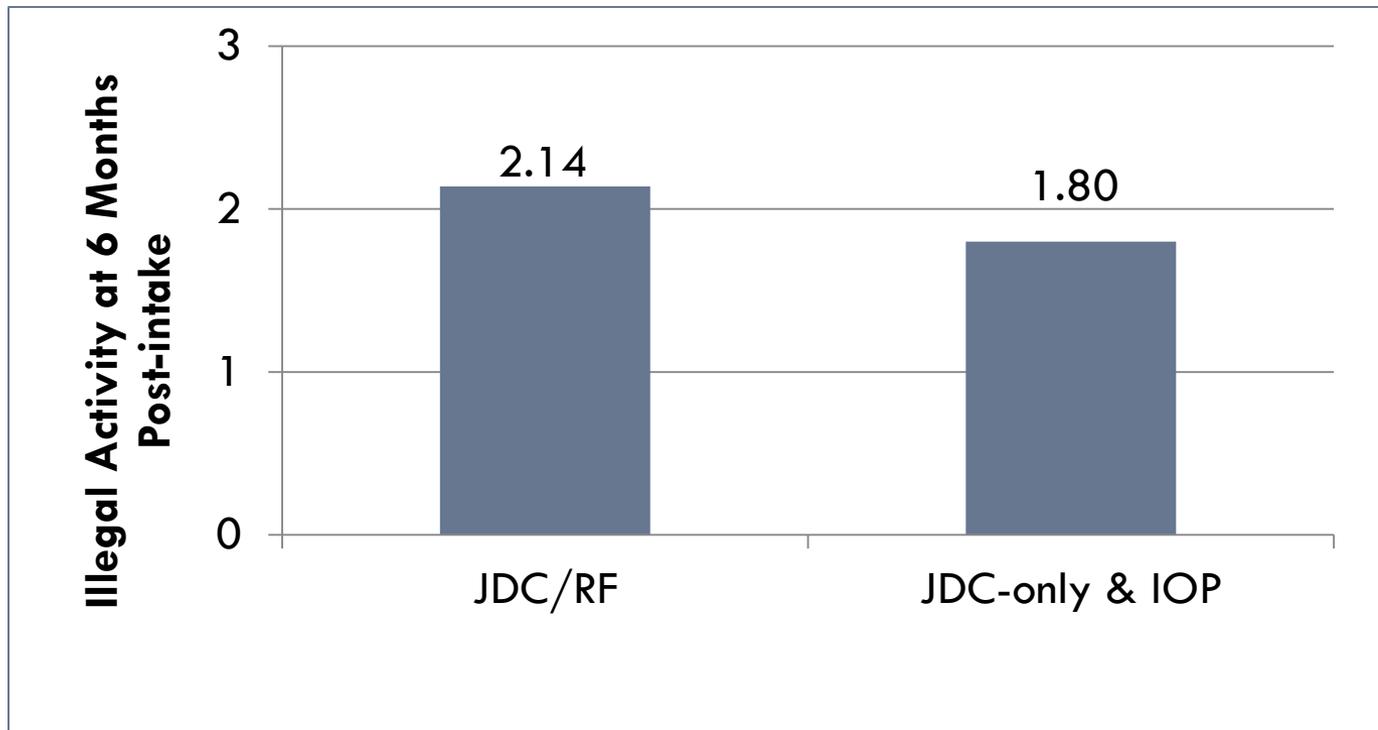
Total Number of Crimes

Relationship between total number of crimes at program intake and total number of crimes at 6 months post-intake is different for JDC/RF clients than for JDC-only and IOP clients.



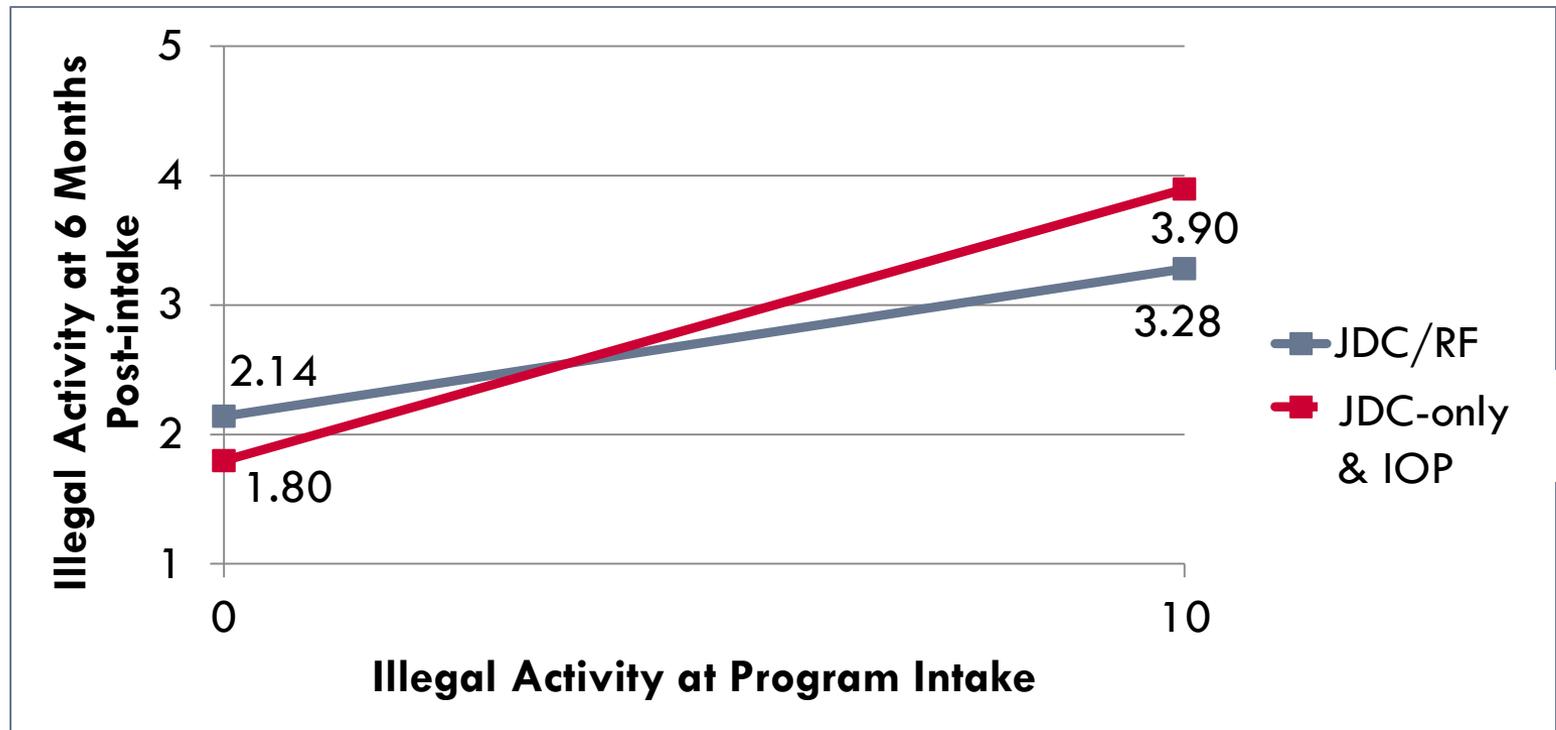
Illegal Activity

On average, clients of JDC/RF programs engaged in more illegal activity at 6 months post-intake as compared to clients of JDC-only and IOP programs.



Illegal Activity

Relationship between illegal activity at program intake and illegal activity at 6 months post-intake is different for JDC/RF clients than for JDC-only and IOP clients.





Summary



Program comparison summary

- The three types of programs differ significantly on a number of individual- and program-level characteristics that have been associated with successful client outcomes.
- Significant program characteristic by outcome (substance use and legal trouble) at intake suggest more complicated and detailed relationships.



Impact of Programmatic Factors on Client Outcomes

Questions

- Which program characteristics effectively address substance use and criminal activity?
- What are the critical components of adolescent substance abuse programs?

Results that would Indicate a Critical Component

- Overall main effect of program characteristic on substance use/criminal activity at 6 months post-program intake*
- An overall interaction effect that indicates that the usual positive relationship between substance use/criminal activity at intake and at 6 months post-intake was interrupted or reversed*

*while controlling for substance use and criminal activity at program intake and for client characteristics

Program Characteristics Not Tested

All but one of the sampled programs provided drug screening.

All of the sampled programs had a group that met regularly to do staffings, to coordinate services, and/or to do treatment planning.

All program clients at all but one of the sampled programs were screened for need using a reputable screening tool(s).

If the initial screening suggested possible substance abuse or mental health problems, the youth at all of the sampled programs were fully assessed for clinical need using a reputable assessment tool(s).

All of the sampled programs had a clear definition of completion of the program.

Program Characteristics with no Detectable Impact

Establishing a system of program monitoring and evaluation

Building partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth clients and their families

Training personnel to be culturally competent

Having written drug testing procedures and policies

Having confidentiality policy and procedures to guard the privacy of the youth while allowing treatment-related personnel [case managers, therapists] to access key information

Frequent reviews of treatment plans were scheduled

Interventions were tailored to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families

Treatment was appropriate to the developmental needs of adolescents

Family was recognized and engaged as a valued partner in all components of the program

Youth compliance was responded to with incentives designed to reinforce this behavior

Program Characteristics with no Detectable Impact

Assuring that all clients received at least one service contact within 14 days of initial assessment

Assuring that all clients received at least 3 treatment sessions within 30 days of initial assessment

Assuring that all clients completed treatment

Program Characteristics with no Detectable Impact While Controlling for Client Characteristics

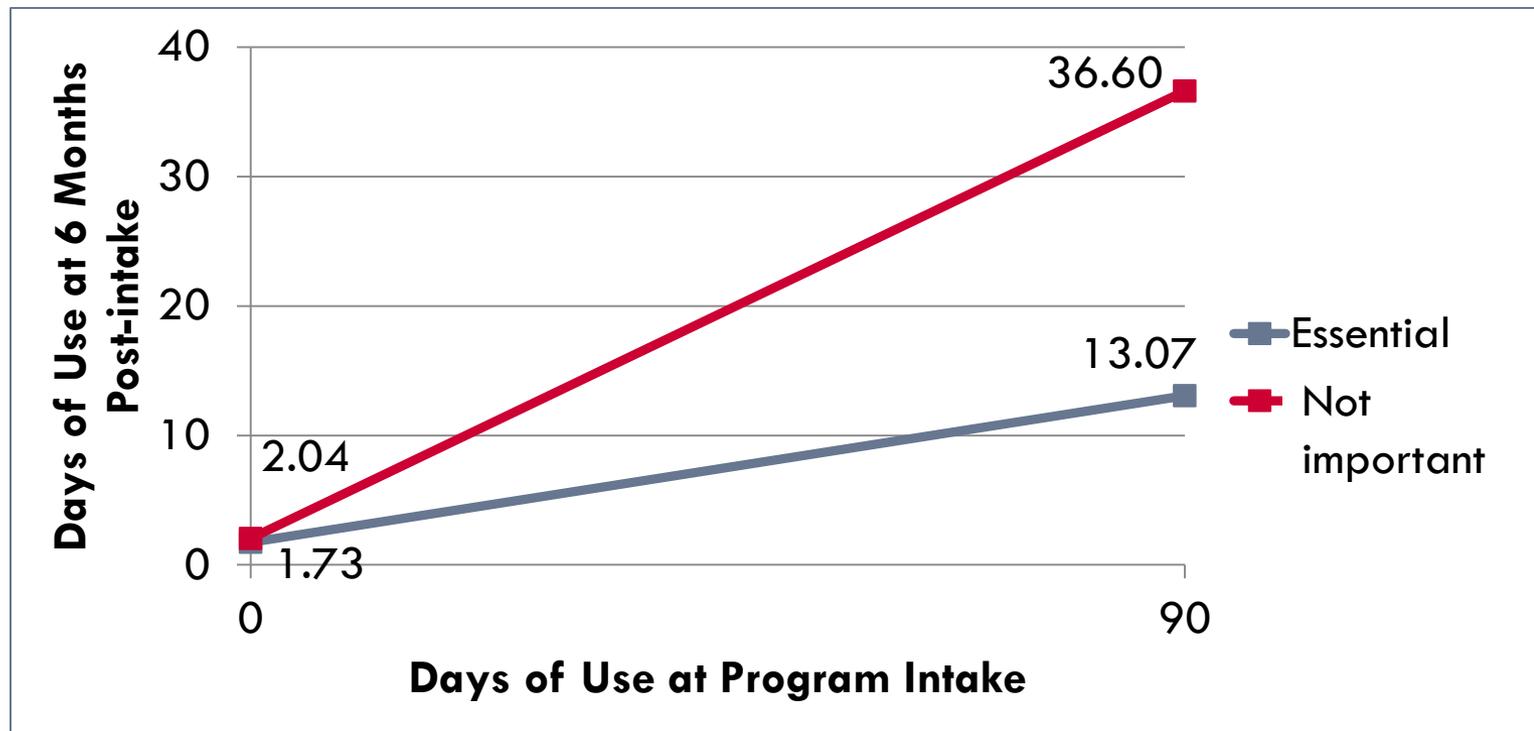
The program focused on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between treatment personnel and those they serve

All stakeholders were engaged in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and systematic approach to working with youth and their families

Youth non-compliance was responded to with sanctions designed to modify this behavior

Days of Substance Use

Relationship between days of substance use at program intake and days of use at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the importance of defining a target population and eligibility criteria.



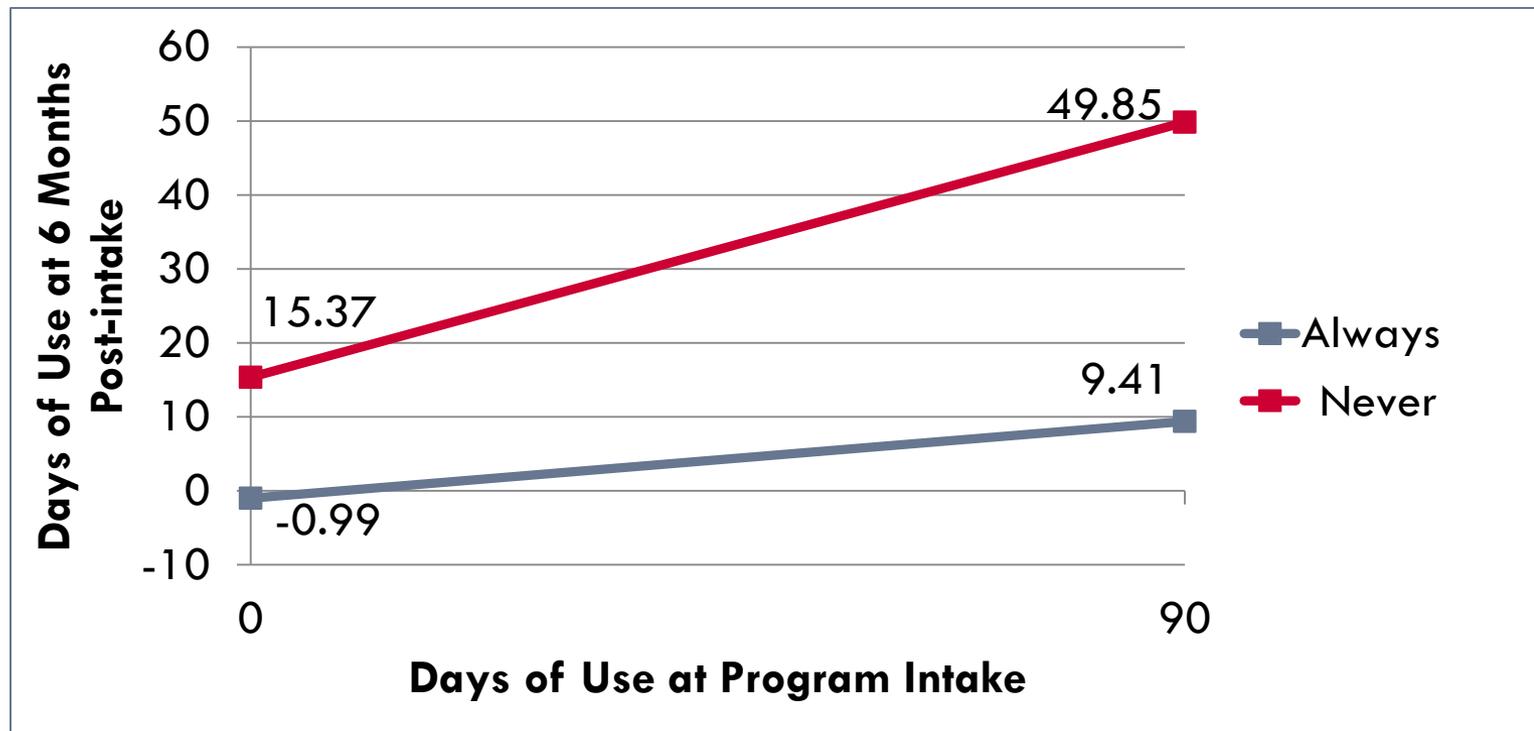
Days of Substance Use

Main effect of frequency designing treatment to address needs of each gender:

On average, as frequency designing treatment to address needs of each gender increased, days of substance use at 6 months post-intake decreased.

Days of Substance Use

Relationship between days of substance use at program intake and days of use at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of designing treatment to address needs of each gender.



Substance Problems

Main effect of frequency of designing treatment to address needs of each gender:

On average, as frequency of designing treatment to address needs of each gender increased, substance problems at 6 months post-intake decreased.

Substance Problems

Main effect of frequency of using policies responsive to cultural differences:

On average, as frequency of using policies responsive to cultural differences increased, substance problems at 6 months post-intake decreased.

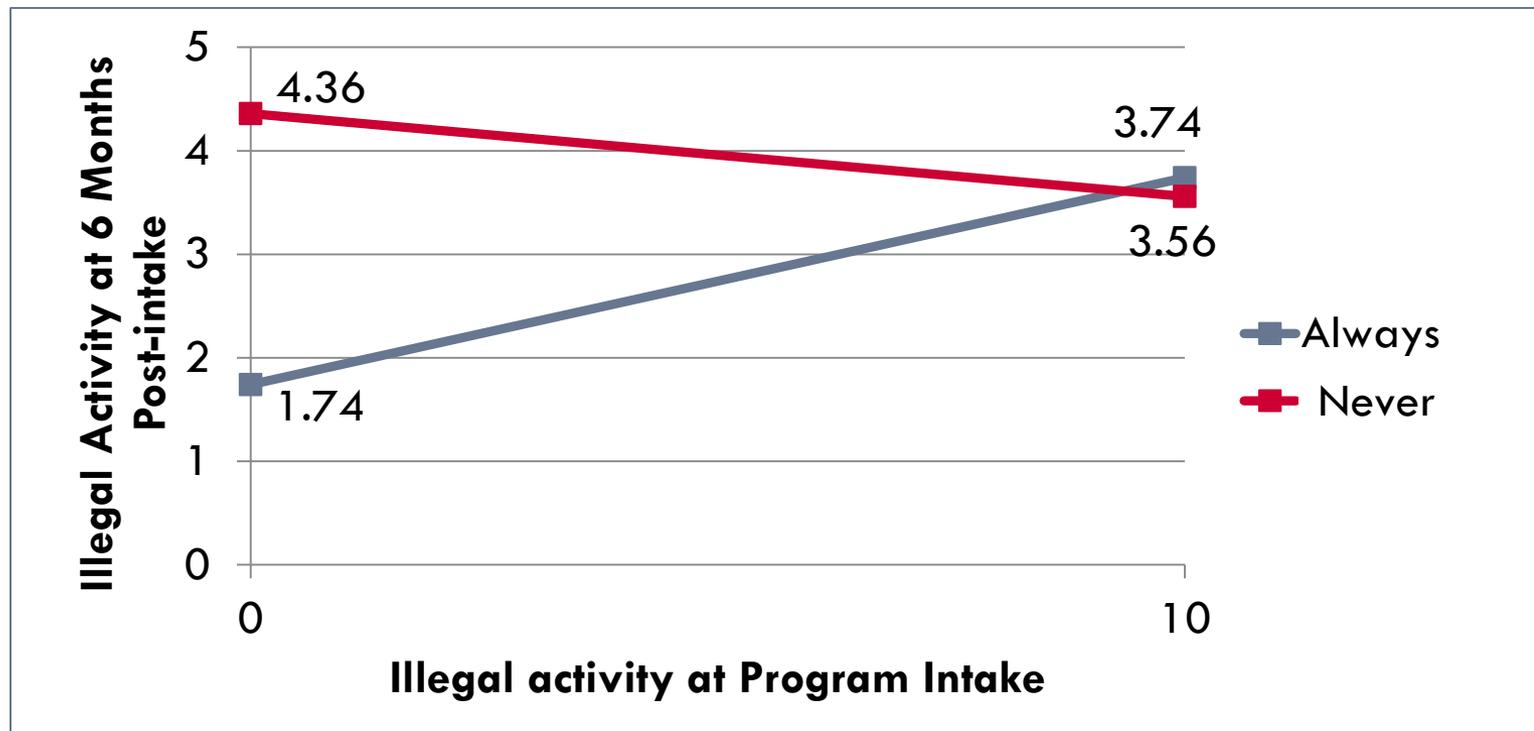
Illegal Activity

Main effect of frequency of using a non-adversarial approach to address youth needs:

On average, as frequency of using a non-adversarial approach to address youth needs increased, illegal activity at 6 months post-intake decreased.

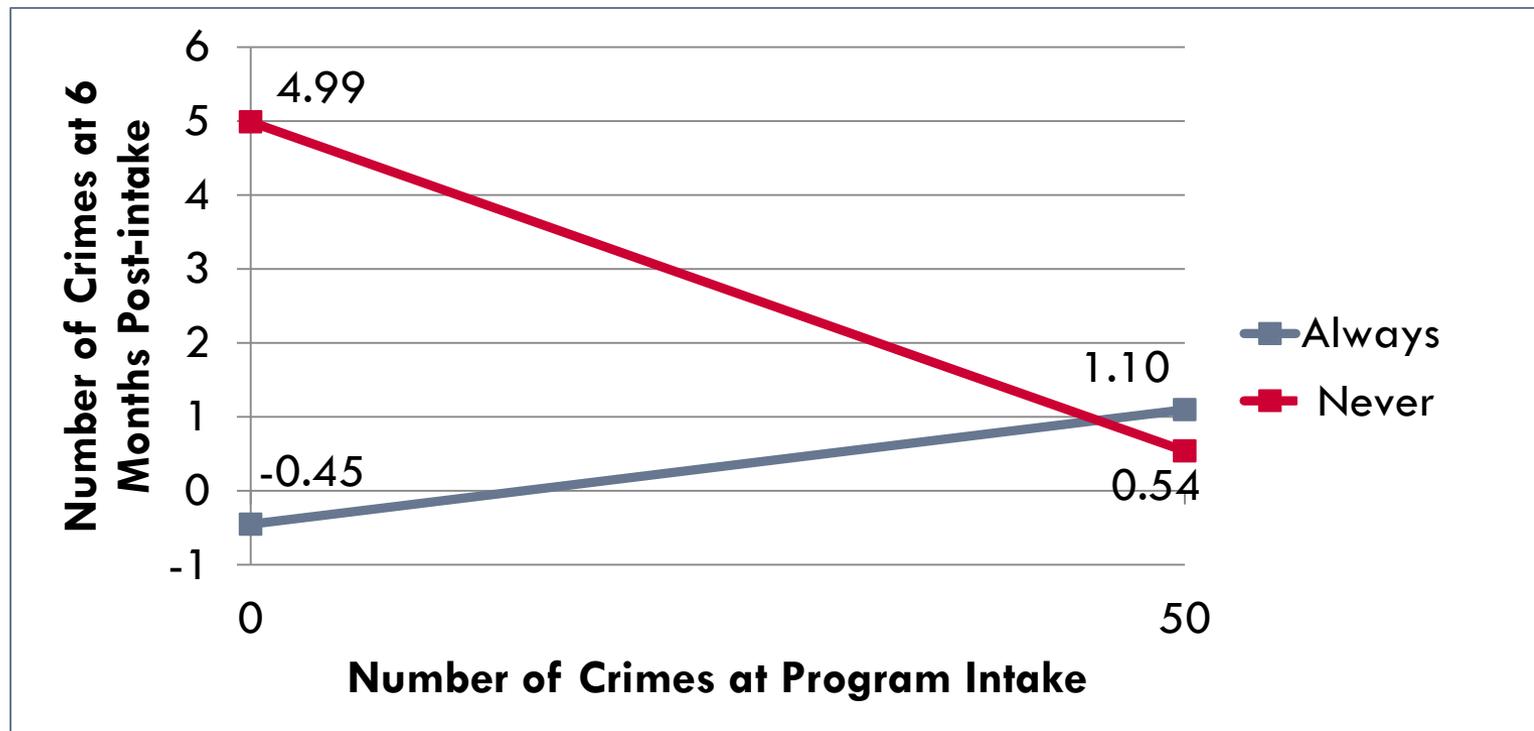
Illegal Activity

Relationship between illegal activity at program intake and illegal activity at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of using a non-adversarial approach to address youth needs.



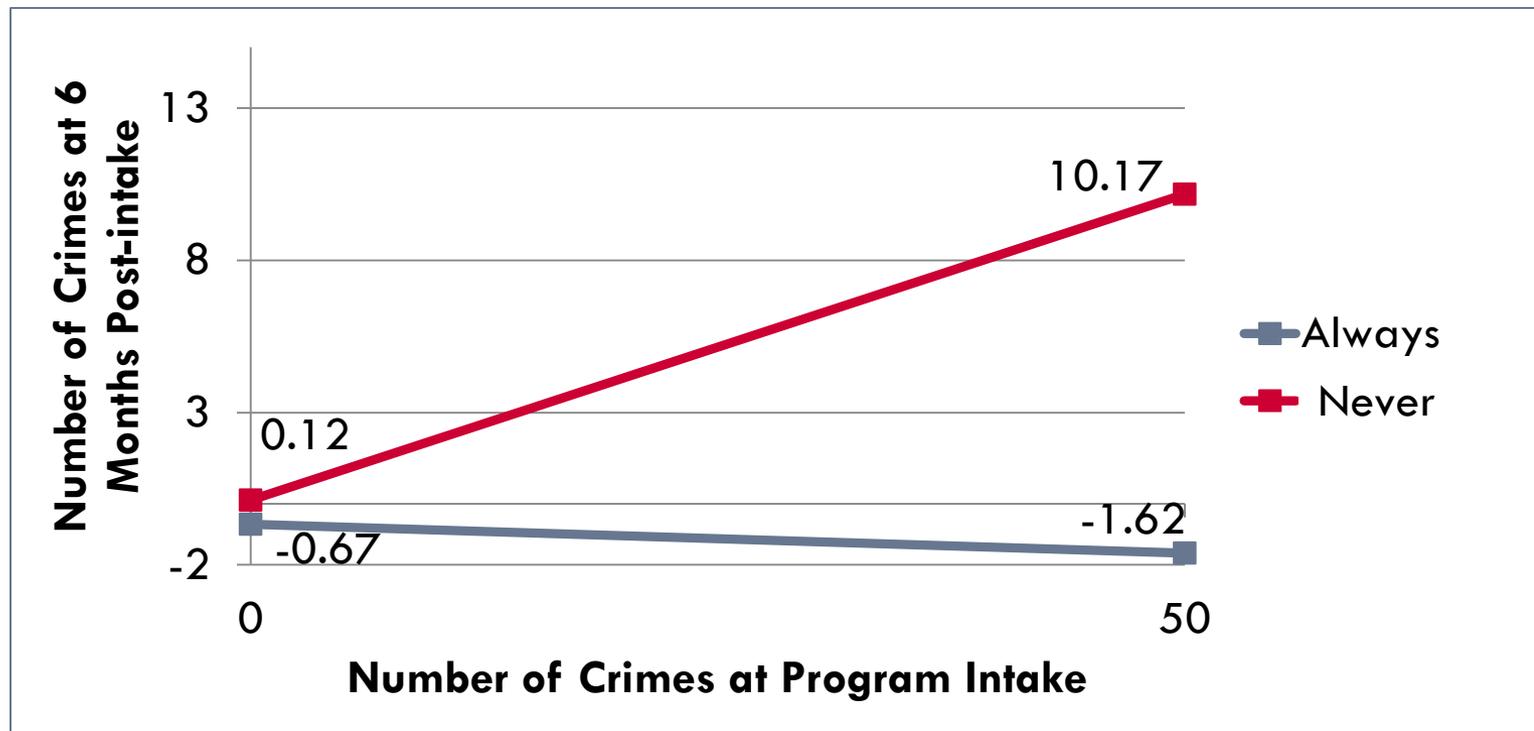
Total Number of Crimes

Relationship between number of crimes at program intake and number of crimes at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of using a non-adversarial approach to address youth needs.



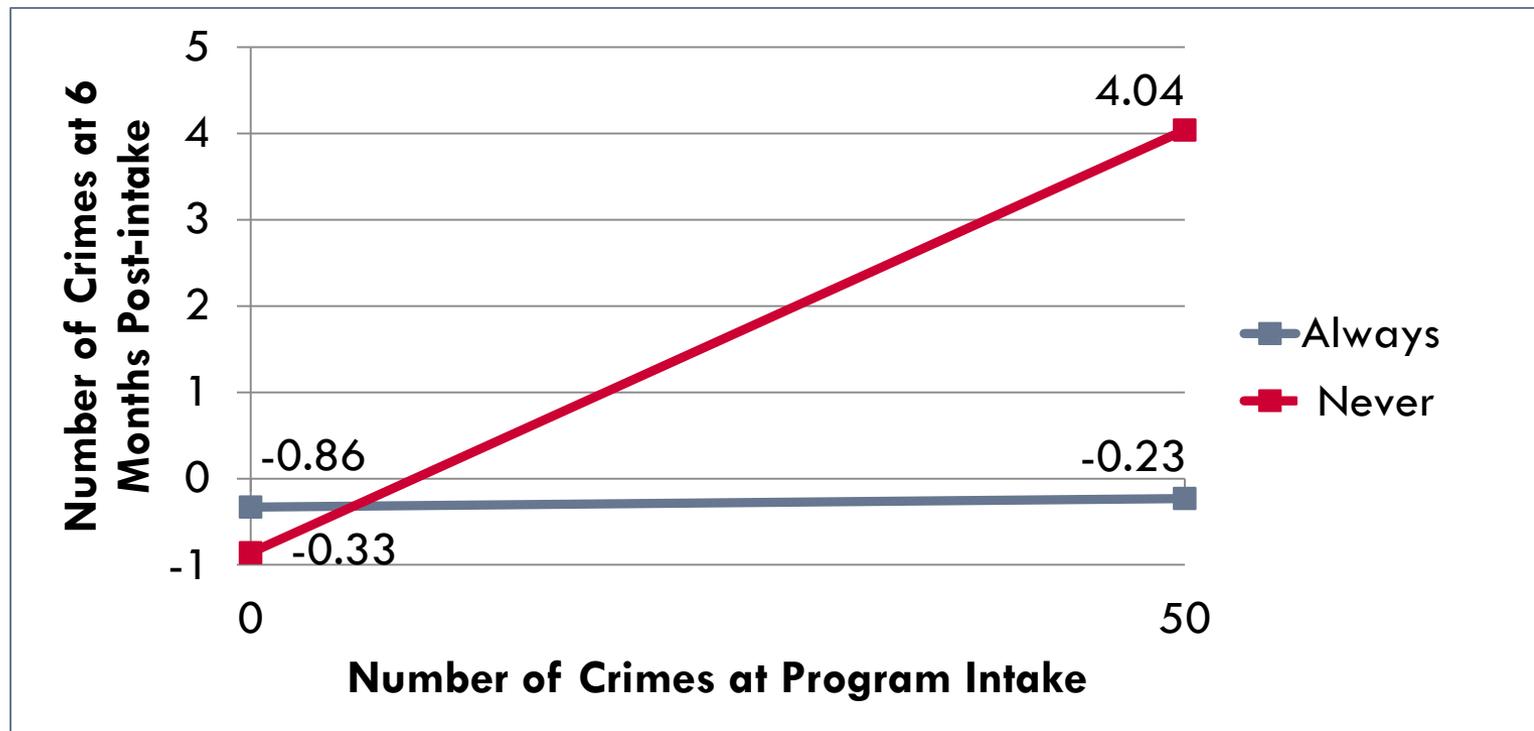
Total Number of Crimes

Relationship between number of crimes at program intake and number of crimes at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of designing treatment to address needs of each gender.



Total Number of Crimes

Relationship between number of crimes at program intake and number of crimes at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of coordinating with the school system.



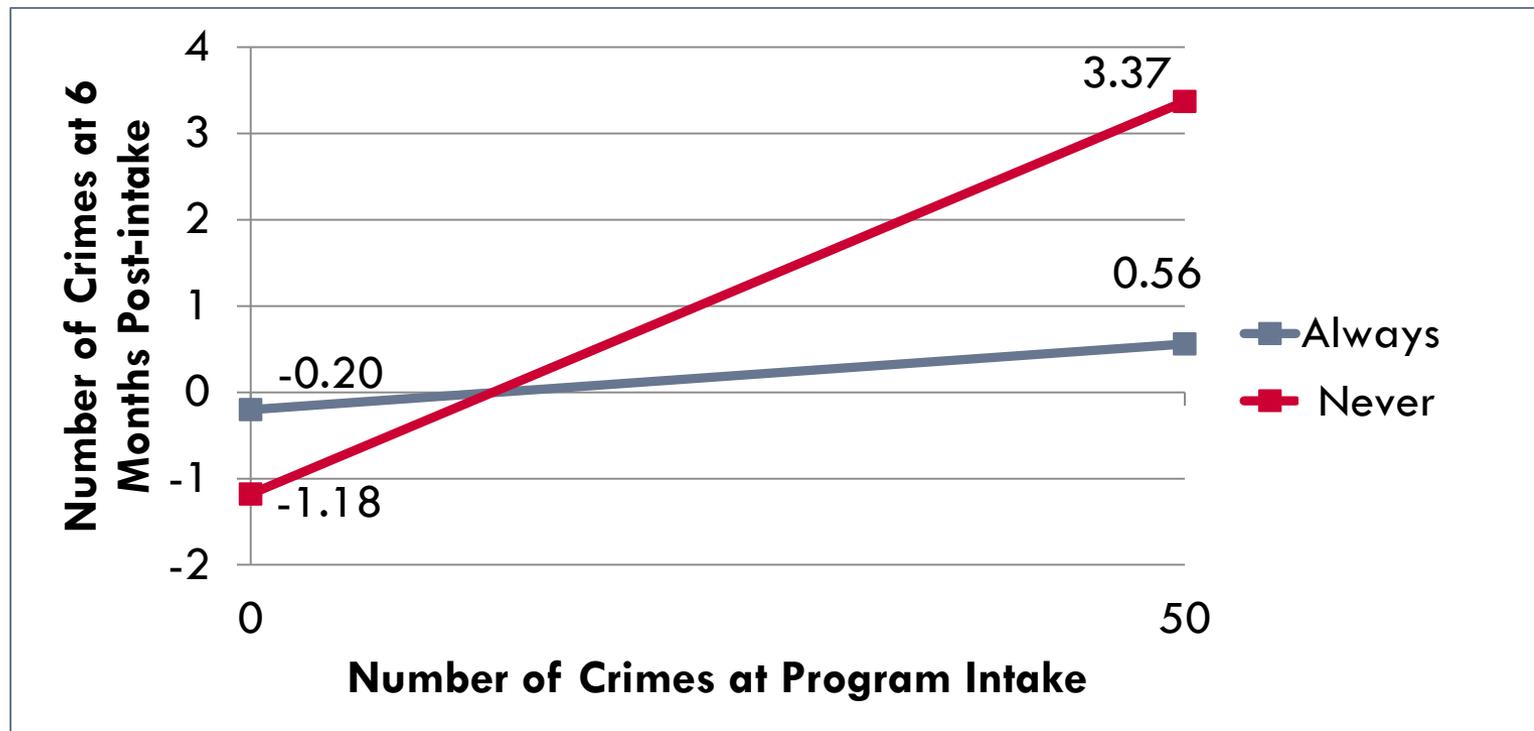
Total Number of Crimes

Main effect of frequency of random and observed drug testing:

On average, as frequency of random and observed drug testing increased, number of crimes at 6 months post-intake increased.

Total Number of Crimes

Relationship between number of crimes at program intake and number of crimes at 6 months post-intake varies depending on the frequency of random and observed drug testing.





Summary & Implications

Conclusions

- The only direct main effect between type of treatment program and client outcomes was for the GAIN Illegal Activity Scale at 6 months post-intake
- However, significant interactions with the severity of the outcome at intake suggest more complicated relationships

Conclusions

- One of the most consistently positive effects across outcomes was made by the importance of gender sensitive treatment (less substance use, and fewer substance problems and crimes at 6 months post-intake)

Limitations

- ❑ There were several program characteristics that could not be tested due to lack of variability
 - ❑ This does not mean that these factors do not have an important impact on client outcomes and program effectiveness
- ❑ Self-report data for outcomes
- ❑ Retrospective program data

Next steps

- Examining effects of other program characteristics
- Compound models considering multivariate impact of programmatic factors
- Comparing the effectiveness of different evidence-based treatment
- Additional Reclaiming Futures sites
- Cost effectiveness

Questions?



Questions: Contact Pamela Baumer, pcihnes@chestnut.org, or Josephine Korchmaros, jkorch@email.arizona.edu

Disclaimer: The development of this presentation is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress-contract number LCFRD11C0007 and is supported by Grant Number 2013-DC-BX-0081 awarded by OJJDP, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Department of Justice or the Library of Congress; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Acknowledgements: SIROW wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the evaluation sites and the evaluation partners, Chestnut Health Systems (CHS) and Carnevale Associates, LLC (CALLC) to this National Cross-Site Evaluation. In addition, SIROW is appreciative of support from the Library of Congress - Federal Research Division, OJJDP, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office.

Suggested Citation: Baumer, P. C., Korchmaros, J. D., Stevens, S. J., Dennis, M. L., & Moritz, K. R. (July, 2015). Programmatic Factors Related to Outcomes in Juvenile Outpatient Treatment: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Juvenile Drug Courts. Paper presented at the *National Association of Drug Court Professionals 21st Annual Training Conference*, National Harbor, MD.